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This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 4, 2006. Claims 1 and 9 are amended. Claim 1 is amended editorially and is supported, for example, in the specification on page 15, line 19-page 16, line 17, page 19 and line 19-page 20, line 8. Claim 9 is amended editorially and is supported, for example, in the specification on page 19, line 19-page 20, line 8 and Figure 1. Claim 15 is new. Claim 15 is added to include the features of claim 9 as well as aspects supported, for example, in the specification on page 15, line 19-page 16, line 17 and Figure 1. No new matter is added. Claims 1-15 are pending.

Claim Objections:

Claims 9-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants note that claim 9 is an independent claim and is therefore allowable. Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9 and should be allowable as well. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

§102(b) Rejections:

Claims 1-8 are rejected as being anticipated by Ohta (US Patent No. 5,543,689). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a high-frequency power supply device that requires, among other features, an oscillator, an amplifier and a direct-current power supply. The device further requires a direct-current output detector connected between the direct-current power supply and the amplifier to detect at least the direct-current power voltage supplied from the direct-current power supply to the amplifier and a high-frequency output detector connected between the amplifier and the load to detect the high-frequency output supplied from the amplifier to the load. A loss calculator calculates a loss generated in the amplifier. When the calculated loss by the loss calculator exceeds a loss set value determined beforehand, a first controller of the device causes the direct-current power supply to lower the direct-current power voltage supplied to the amplifier from the direct-current power supply until the calculated loss becomes equal to the loss set value. When the calculated loss is no greater than the loss set value, the first controller causes the

direct-current power supply to maintain the direct-current power voltage supplied to the amplifier from the direct-current power supply at an appropriate direct-current voltage set value.

Ohta does not disclose or teach or suggest these features. Ohta is directed to a high frequency power source that includes an amplifier (11), a power detector (12) and a controller (13). The controller (13) receives set-power data (Dth1) and detected power data (D11) from the power detector (12) and sends control gain data (D12) to the amplifier (11). The controller (13) controls the output of the power source by sending control gain data (D12), based on a difference between control target data and a power-setting data, to the amplifier (11) (see column 4, line 58-column 5, line 29 and Figure 2). Nowhere does Ohta disclose or teach or suggest a direct-current output detector connected between a direct-current power supply and the amplifier (11). Moreover, nowhere does Ohta disclose or teach or suggest a loss calculator that calculates the loss generated in the amplifier (11) or a first controller, that when the calculated loss by the loss calculator exceeds a loss set value determined beforehand, causes a direct-current power supply to lower a direct-current power voltage supplied to the amplifier (11) from the direct-current power supply until the calculated loss becomes equal to the loss set value or when the calculated loss is no greater than the loss set value, causes the direct-current power supply to maintain the direct-current power voltage supplied to the amplifier (11) from the direct-current power supply at an appropriate direct-current voltage set value. For at least these reasons claim 11 is not anticipated or unpatentable over Ohta. Claims 1-8 depend from claim 1 and should allowable over Ohta for at least the same reasons.

New Claim 15:

Claim 15 is newly added. However, to expedite the prosecution of this case the following comments are noted. Claim 15 includes all of the features of original claim 9 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as original claim 9.

Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 11-15 are now in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.



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~~January~~

Respectfully submitted,

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